

MEDIA, PA — On Monday, March 3, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) participated in “Read Across America Day” at the Notre Dame de Lourdes School in Swarthmore, where he read passages from *Treasure Island* to fifth and sixth grade students, and took questions from the students about his experience as a Member of Congress and service in the Navy. He also presented each student with a copy of the U.S. Constitution.

“An investment in reading is an investment in the promise of our children and the intellectual capital of our nation. Reading is a critical part of our education foundation which will help maintain America’s global competitiveness,” said Congressman Sestak. “This is why I read as often as I can to my six-year old daughter Alex, and why I believe Congress should be making proper investments into education, and in particular literacy programs such as Early Reading First and Reading First, which can improve a child’s development and literacy.”

Early Reading First is a federal program designed to transform existing early education programs into centers of excellence that provide high-quality, early education to young children, especially those from low-income families. Reading First is a federal program which allows states and districts to receive support to apply scientific research conducted on reading and the proven instructional and assessment tools consistent with this research to ensure that all children learn to read well by the end of third grade.

Read Across America Day is an annual reading awareness program, organized by the National Education Association, that encourages children across the nation to celebrate reading while marking the national commemoration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday. More than 45 million children were expected to participate in the 11th annual Read Across America Day.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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